**פרשת וישב / Parashat Vayeshev**

Shabbat Kislev 25, 5770, December 12, 2009

32:1-32:52 MATSATI.COM / Rightly Dividing The Word of G-d

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| **השבועות הזה קוראים / This Week’s Reading****Bereshit / Genesis 38:1-11**38:1 And it came about at that time, that Judah departed from his brothers and visited a certain Adullamite, whose name was Hirah. 38:2 Judah saw there a daughter of a certain Canaanite whose name was Shua; and he took her and went in to her. 38:3 So she conceived and bore a son and he named him Er. 38:4 Then she conceived again and bore a son and named him Onan. 38:5 She bore still another son and named him Shelah; and it was at Chezib that she bore him. 38:6 Now Judah took a wife for Er his firstborn, and her name was Tamar. 38:7 But Er, Judah's firstborn, was evil in the sight of the Lord, so the Lord took his life. 38:8 Then Judah said to Onan, ‘Go in to your brother's wife, and perform your duty as a brother-in-law to her, and raise up offspring for your brother.’ 38:9 Onan knew that the offspring would not be his; so when he went in to his brother's wife, he wasted his seed on the ground in order not to give offspring to his brother. 38:10 But what he did was displeasing in the sight of the Lord; so He took his life also. 38:11 Then Judah said to his daughter-in-law Tamar, ‘Remain a widow in your father's house until my son Shelah grows up’; for he thought, ‘I am afraid that he too may die like his brothers.’ So Tamar went and lived in her father's house. (NASB) |
| **תורה:****הפטרה:****הברית:****החדשה:** | Genesis 37:1-40:23Amos 2:6-3:8Matthew 1:1-6, 16-25 |

This week’s portion from the triennial cycle (*Bereshit / Genesis 38:1-30*) recites the account of Yehudah’s life who separated himself from his brothers and married a Canaanite woman named Shua who bore three sons to Yehudah: Er, Onan, and Shelah. The story tells how when Er grew older, Yehudah chose a Canaanite woman for him named Tamar but that Er was wicked in the eyes of the Lord and died leaving Tamar childless. Yehudah gave Tamar his second son Onan according to the custom of the Levirate marriage where the brother of a man who dies childless is obligated to give a child to his brothers widow to be raised in his brother’s name. Onan however sinned before the Lord spilling his seed in order to avoid the obligation and scripture tells us that the Lord slew him for this. At this point Yehudah is reluctant to give his final son out of fear that he would die too and so mislead Tamar telling her he would do the same as soon as Shelah came of age.

**38:1-11 בְּרֵאשִׁית**



After realizing that Yehudah had deceived her and was not going to fulfill his promise to give his son Shelah in marriage to her, Tamar took matters into her own hands. She disguised herself as a prostitute and seduced Yehudah becoming pregnant. Tamar then gave birth to twin sons, Zerah and Perez who was an ancestor of King David.

G-d knows the true intent of our hearts. The story of Er and Onan from Yehudah’s life illustrates that clearly.

***Mishley / Proverbs 15:3***

*15:3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.*

**Be Blessed in Yeshua our Messiah!**

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**הללויה לאדוננו מורנו ורבינו ישוע מלך המשיח לעולם ועד:**

Hallelujah for our Lord, our Teacher, our Rabbi,

“Yeshua” King Messiah forever and ever